

### **REMARKS**

Claims 15-34 were pending in the application. Claims 19, 20, 26, and 29 were amended in response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2003 (Paper No. 8). Upon entry of these amendments entered in the aforementioned Response, Claims 15-34 will be pending and under active consideration. Claims 15 and 27 are independent.

In response to the Office Action entitled "Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121" dated November 24, 2003 (Paper No. 9), Applicants respectfully submit that previously canceled Claims 1-14 had inadvertently not been included in the section of the Response entitled "Amendment To The Claims". Claims 1-14 had been previously canceled by way of the Preliminary Amendment filed on June 28, 2001. Applicants had also inadvertently not provided the claim status identifier required for each of the pending claims. Accordingly, to be fully responsive under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.121(h), Applicants have provided herewith the required entire "Amendments to the Claims" Section of the Response filed on October 20, 2003 (Paper No. 8). This document provides the full set pending Claims 15-34, as well as the previously canceled Claims 1-14. The document also provides the claim status identifier required for each claim.

Applicants respectfully request entry remarks made herein into the file history of the present invention.

### **CONCLUSION**

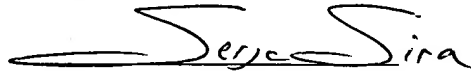
Applicants submit respectfully that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

**AUTHORIZATION**

Applicants believe there is no fee due in connection with this filing. However, to the extent required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due in connection with this filing to Deposit Account 50-1710 or credit any overpayment to same.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Serge Sira", written over the printed name of Gilberto M. Villacorta.

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